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Commission on the Status of Women
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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

South Africa:* draft resolution

Ending female genital mutilation

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 58/156 of 22 December 2003 and 60/141 of 16 December 2005, and all other relevant resolutions, as well as the agreed conclusions adopted at the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[1]

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child[2] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] together with their Optional Protocols, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of girls,

Reaffirming also the goals and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration[4] and Platform of Action[5] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[6] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[7] and the Programme

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 7* (E/2006/27), chap. I.D.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[3] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

[6] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

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of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[8] and their five and ten-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration[9] and the commitments relevant to the girl child in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[10]

Recalling the entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

Recalling also general recommendation 14 concerning female circumcision adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its ninth session, paragraphs 11, 20 and 24 (l) of general recommendation 19 concerning violence against women adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session, paragraphs 15 (d) and 18 of general recommendation 24 concerning article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on women and health adopted by the Committee at its twentieth session, and taking note of paragraphs 21, 35, and 51 of general recommendation 14 concerning article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[11] adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-second session,

Recognizing that female genital mutilation violates the human rights of women and girls,

Noting that the reports of the Secretary-General on violence against children[12] and on violence against women,[13] respectively, single out that girls are at greater risk than boys of early marriage, genital mutilation and may experience various forms of violence throughout their life cycles,

Noting also that negative discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviours have direct implications for the status and treatment of girls and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

Reaffirming that harmful traditional or customary practices, including female genital mutilation, constitute a serious threat to the health of women and girls and may have fatal consequences, and that the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved only as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society,

Recognizing that female genital mutilation is an irreparable, irreversible abuse that affects one hundred to one hundred and forty million women and girls alive today and that each year, a further two million girls are at risk of undergoing the procedure,

1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and the promotion and protection of their human rights,

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[8] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[9] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[10] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[11] General Assembly resolution 2200 (XXI).

[12] A/61/299.

[13] A/61/122 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

and calls upon States to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child[2] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] as well as the commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[14] the Beijing Platform for Action[4] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[6] and of the twenty-seventh special session on children;[15]

2. *Emphasizes* that awareness-raising, community mobilization, education and training are needed to ensure that all key actors, government officials, including law enforcement and judicial officers, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices that negatively affect girls;

3. *Calls upon* States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes on harmful traditional practices, especially female genital mutilation, to engage communities and religious leaders, educational institutions and families and to provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end these practices;

4. *Urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by reviewing and revising, as necessary, school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and by elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilation, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of such violence against girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

5. *Also urges* States to provide education and training on the rights of girls to families, community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of girls, such as social workers, police officers, judges, lawyers and prosecutors, in order to increase awareness of and commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of girls and appropriate responses to rights violations, with regard to female genital mutilation;

6. *Urges* Governments to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments undertaken as States Parties or as signatories to various international instruments protecting the fundamental right and freedoms of girls and women and also to ensure that they are translated into local languages that are widely distributed to the population and the judiciary;

7. *Urges* States to review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women and to ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

8. *Also urges* States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence, particularly female genital mutilation, and to develop social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to this violence;

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[14] General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[15] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

9. *Calls upon* States to develop policies, protocols and rules to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against girls, in particular female genital mutilation, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at national and local levels to monitor adherence to, and implementation of, these mechanisms;

10. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for data collection on all forms of discrimination and violence against girls, especially forms that are under-documented such as female genital mutilation, and to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating female genital mutilation;

11. *Calls upon* Governments to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of legislation and action plans aimed at bringing about the abandonment of female genital mutilation;

12. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources, targeted, innovative programmes that address the needs and priorities of girls in vulnerable situations, such as that of female genital mutilation, who have difficulties accessing services and programmes;

13. *Encourages* all decision makers at all levels with responsibilities for policies, legislation, programmes and allocation of public resources to play leadership roles in eliminating female genital mutilation;

14. *Encourages* men and boys to continue to take positive initiatives to combat violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of girls against female genital mutilation in their country programmes, as appropriate, in accordance with national priorities, so as to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the implementation of the present resolution by using information provided by Member States and verifiable information provided by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of girls.